

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11

FEA-02 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 FRB-02 SIL-01 LAB-06

DRC-01 /113 W

----- 096295

R 250510Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7525

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0223

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG NZ

SUBJ: PRICES OF GASOLINE AND OTHER FUELS INCREASE

1. ON JAN 25 THE PRICE OF PREMIUM GASOLINE
JUMPED TO 13NZ CENTS PER LITRE FROM 10.6 AND
INCREASE OF OVER 22.6 PER CENT. REGULAR GRADE
GASOLINE ROSE FROM 9.9 CENTS TO 12.3 CENTS PER LITRE,
OVER 24 PERCENT INCREASE. DIESEL FUEL ROSE .22
CENTS PER LITRE TO .68 CENTS AN INCREASE OF 11.5 PERCENT.

2. MIN OF ENERGY RESOURCES, WARREN FREER SAID
PRICE RISES WERE A DIRECT RESULT OF GREATLY INCREASED
COSTS TO THE OIL COMPANIES BUT WERE NOT AS HIGH AS THE
COMPANIES HAD SOUGHT. HE SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO
ASSESS WHAT FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE NECESSARY
BECAUSE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS COULD CHANGE THEIR
PRICES FREQUENTLY. SURCHARGE VARIED ON DIESEL AND
HEAVY FUEL IN ORDER TO MINIMISE COSTS ON AGRICULTURAL
AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. PRICE INCREASE
WAS THE FIRST SINCE JUNE 1972.

3. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR,
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T E SKINNER, SAID THE PRICE RISE WAS FAR TOO

GREAT, SPECIALLY SINCE A FURTHER RISE WAS LIKELY
SOON. HE SAID SOME OF THIS INCREASE OUGHT TO BE ABSORBED BY
THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH REDUCING THE HIGHWAY TAX AND BY
THE OIL COMPANIES FROM THEIR ACCUMULATED PROFITS.
WHEN COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBLE INCREASES EARLIER MR.
SKINNER SAID THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR MIGHT HAVE
TO PUSH FOR A WAGE INCREASE TO COMPENSATE FOR HIGHER
PRICES.

COMMENT: NEW ZEALAND MAY BE ABOUT TO START ON A
NEW WAGE / PRICE SPIRAL.
WOOD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ENRG, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005